

# Oregon's U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith

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## **A BIPARTISAN AGENDA FOR OREGON IN THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**

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### **Improving the Health Care System for All**

**HELP SAFEGUARD FAMILIES AGAINST CATASTROPHIC HEALTH COSTS:** Team up in the Senate Finance Committee to find ways to broaden the risk-sharing of catastrophic costs beyond an individual, a single company or insurer to prevent health-related bankruptcies and keep premiums lower for everyone.

**DEFEND OREGON'S MEDICAID FUNDING AND IMPROVE THE PROGRAM NATIONWIDE:** Oppose drastic cuts in Medicaid funding while creating a Bipartisan Commission on Medicaid and the Medically Underserved and supporting the efforts of the Wyden-Hatch Citizens Health Care Working Group to find ways to make Medicaid work better.

**ASSURE EQUITY FOR OREGON'S MEDICARE PROVIDERS:** Create equity for Oregon's Medicare providers with legislative proposals to reverse the inequities that now penalize Oregon providers for giving higher-quality, more efficient care.

### **Ensuring Economic Stability and Growth**

**DEFEND OREGON PRODUCERS FROM UNFAIR TIMBER TRADE:** Protect Oregon lumber producers from unfair trade practices, while pressing the U.S. Trade Representative and Commerce Department to reinvigorate negotiations on a new softwood lumber trade agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

**PROMOTE GREEN ENERGY:** Further Oregon's status as the premier state for the development of renewable resources through tax and energy legislation that reauthorizes the renewable energy production incentives program (REPI) for consumer-owned utilities, extends production tax credits for the generation of electricity from renewables, and spurs biomass development in Oregon to provide more and cheaper fuel for biomass facilities in accordance with work being done under the Healthy Forests Act. Promote efforts to bring green energy technology and companies to Oregon.

**SUPPORT VIBRANT PORTS:** Fight to maintain funding for Oregon's smaller ports and work to ensure Port of Portland's competitiveness by dredging the Columbia River Channel to 43 feet.

**PROTECT COUNTY PAYMENTS:** Work to reauthorize the law that ensures continued stable funding that provides over \$57 million for Oregon schools and over \$200 million to Oregon counties annually.

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**KEEP POWER RATES AFFORDABLE FOR OREGON USERS:** Continue to fight any legislative or administrative attempts to force the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to sell its power at market-based rates, or to restrict BPA's access to capital for infrastructure investments.

**Tapping the Power of Technology**

**ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGY DEPRECIATION:** Boost the Oregon tech sector and the Silicon Forest by seeking to accelerate the depreciation schedules for information technology equipment, ending the tax penalties businesses often pay when they try to employ newer technologies.

**MAKE OREGON A NANOTECH LEADER:** Work to make Oregon the home of one of the regional nanotechnology research centers established by the National Nanotechnology Program while securing more Federal grants and appropriations to upgrade and expand Oregon's nanotechnology efforts.

**KEEP THE INTERNET FREE FROM DISCRIMINATORY TAXES:** Work to make the internet tax moratorium permanent, protecting e-commerce and Internet users alike from discriminatory and multiple taxes on online purchases and double taxation of Internet access.

**BUILD OUT BROADBAND:** Work to make sure every Oregonian – urban and rural – has high speed Internet access with tax incentives to help bring broadband to currently unserved areas of the state.

**Supporting Communities, Families and Children**

**CONFRONT OREGON'S METHAMPHETAMINE EPIDEMIC:** Fight a multi-front war against methamphetamine by passing the Combat Meth Act, fully funding the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program (HIDTA), making Methamphetamine a Schedule I drug, and clamping down on foreign-made precursors through ephedrine import quotas.

**KEEP 529 HIGHER EDUCATION SAVINGS TAX-FREE :** Extend the tax-free status of 529 education plans that keep savings for university, professional and vocational education free from Federal and Oregon taxes when used for tuition, fees, books, room and board.

**SERVE OREGON'S HUNGRY:** Work to find new ways to alleviate hunger and the causes of hunger for Oregon's economically vulnerable.